ROLL CALL.

"Corporal Green!" the Orderly cried. "Here!" was the answer, loud and clear, From the lips of the soldier who stood near; And "Here!" was the word the next replied.

"Cyrus Drew!"-then silence fell-This time no answer followed the call Only his rear man had seen him fall, Killed or wounded, he could not tell.

There they stood in the failing light, These men of battle, with grave, dark looks, As plain to be read as open books. While slowly gathered the shades of night.

The fern on the hillsides was splashed with blood, And down in the corn where the poppies grew, Were redder stains than the poppies knew; And crimson-dyed was the river's flood.

For the foe had crossed from the other side That day in the face of a murderous fire. That swept them down in its terrible ire, And their life blood went to color the tide.

"Herbert Kline!" At the call there came Two stalwart soldiers into the line. Bearing between them this Herbert Kline, Wounded and bleeding, to answer his name.

"Ezra Kerr!"-and a voice answered, "Here!" "Hiram Kerr!"-but no man replied. They were brothers, these two; the sad wind sighed And a shudder crept through the cornfield near.

"Deane carried our regiment's colors," he said,

"Where our ensign was shot I left him dead, Just after the enemy wavered and broke. "Close to the roadside his body lies; I paused a moment and gave him drink; He murmured his mother's name, I think,

"Ephraim Deane!"—then a soldier spoke;

And death came with it, and closed his eyes.' 'Twas a victory, yes, but it cost us dear-For that company's roll, when called at night Of a hundred men who went into the fight, Numbered but twenty that answered "Here!" -From the Argonaut.

MECHANICSVILLE.

BEGINNING OF THE "SEVEN DAYS."

BY J. S. SLATER.

The "Seven Days'" fight in reality began June 25, 1862, and ended with Malvern on July 1; but, according to the popular and generally-accepted belief, it commenced with Mechanicsville and terminated with the arrival of the Union | McClellan, with the exception of the Pennsylarmy at Harrison's Landing, on the James, July vania Reserves and a few regiments from Fortress 2. In order to fully understand what is to fol- Monroe, numbering in all perhaps 12,000 men, low, it becomes necessary, however, to go fur- received no accessions to make good his losses. ther back and take a brief glance at the situation | Meantime Jackson, having accomplished his obas it existed a month earlier.

ner's, divisions of Richardson and Sedgwick; near the National Capital-to assist in driving and Casey; Fifth, Porter's, divisions of Morell | was gained about the 22d of June, and in this and Sykes; and Sixth, Franklin's, divisions of wise: On about the date mentioned General Por-Slocum and Smith.

Bottom's Bridge, to the south of the river, took up a position at Seven Pines, six or seven miles from Richmond.

thus weakened, would have enabled McClellan, with the troops remaining under his immediate | Second Maine, First Michigan, Eighteenth and tion of Fair Oaks. Porter met and gained a brilliant victory over some 10,000 of the enemy on their way from Gordonsville to Richmond, and whom he intercepted at Hanover on the 27th, and McDowell, who had been notified of the movement, was expected down by the evening and Sixteenth Michigan. of the 28th at farthest; but he did not form a junction. The order for his advance was counterown good judgment, he was sent in the direction of Port Royal in pursuit of Stonewall Jackson, who, to create a diversion, and, if possible, draw off the Union forces from the Peninsula, had threaten the National Capital.

The rebel leader accomplished his purpose.

With his less than 30,000 men he succeeded in

neutralizing 40,000 of his antagonists, who other-

wise would have marched into Richmond inside

of a week; and the same movement effectually

prevented the reinforcement of McClellan to

make good the loss of McDowell. The heavy

pressure upon the enemy from the direction of

Hanover, coupled with the ascertained fact that

McDowell was well out of the way, had the

effect naturally to be expected. The confederate

commander, Johnston, taking advantage of a fortuitous rise of the Chickahominy, which interrupted communications between the two wings of the army, swung around, and upon the 31st of May delivered a telling counter-stroke upon the Union left wing at Fair Oaks. June 1, the foe, who had triumphed the day previous, were driven back with great slaughter, and the Union troops resumed their original line of offensive operations. The losses had been heavy, however, during the two days' engagement, and although it had eventually resulted in a victory to them, it had also shown that they were confronted by an army equal, if not superior in numbers, to their own, and of equal discipline and valor. Besides, in addition to the troops, aggregating in the vicinity of 15,000 men, who had been confronting General McDowell at Fredericksburg, the rebels were from time to time receiving accessions from different parts of the South, while ject, was rapidly returning—while the authorities On the 20th of May the Army of the Potomac | at Washington were engaged in hunting for him consisted of five Corps, viz., the Second, Sum- in the Shenandoah Valley and at other points Third, Heintzelman's, divisions of Hooker and McClellan from the Peninsula. The first positive Kearney; Fourth, Keyes's, divisions of Couch | knowledge of the intentions of the rebel leader ter's pickets on the right toward Hanover Court- retrograde movement to the James, and subse-Casey's division, on the date last above men- | House brought in a young man who claimed to tioned, crossed the Chickahominy at or near be a Baltimore boy who, having enlisted in Texas, had become tired of the war, deserted Couch's division remaining upon the north bank, from Jackson's army, near Gordonsville, and was with Heintzelman's Corps within supporting then on his way home. A thorough examination distance to the rear. Sumner's Corps was along | by General Porter satisfied that officer that he was the railroad, some three or more miles from the not what he represented himself to be, and he Chickahominy; Franklin's Corps further to the was thereupon sent to army headquarters, right and about three miles from New Bridge, through the provost-marshal general, with the serves, held with Porter's Corps in his rear as support in case | accompanying statement that he was believed to of need. On the 21st of May Stoneman, who be a spy. After being interrogated by General was in advance of Franklin, was about a mile | McClellan without result he was set at liberty; from New Bridge. On the 24th Mechanicsville | but General Porter, hearing of this, requested | ell's divi was occupied by Davidson's brigade of Smith's his rearrest, which being effected, he was again gade of division and the rebels driven across the Chicka- examined, and finally confessed that he had been quainted hominy, and on the same day Casey's division, sent out by Jackson to obtain information as to morning of the 26th news was brought to the advancing from the direction of Bottom's Bridge, the disposition of the Union forces and return as commander of the Ffth Corps at Gaines's that the speedily as possible to act as guide to the rebel enemy were advancing upon Mechanicsville, and leader in his advance on the Union right. He that Jackson was at Hanover Court-House and On the 26th of the month, or, rather, quite further stated that a combined attack of Lee's | would be within striking distance by the next early in the morning of the 27th, General Mc- whole army, including Jackson, was to be made day at the farthest. He immediately dispatch-Clellan dispatched General Fitz John Porter upon the Union right flank; that Lee himself ed Martindale's and Griffin's brigades from Morfrom Gaines's, on the north side of the Chicka- was to cross above Mechanicsville on the 26th, ell's division, and Meade's brigade, to the support hominy, with a portion of the Fifth Corps to unite with Jackson, and attack and defeat Por- of Reynolds and Seymour, and the commands of take possession of Hanover Court-House, some | ter before he could be reinforced or retreat to the | the two last named officers were disposed to refourteen miles to the westward, the occupation | south of the Chickahominy, and that, having | sist the expected attack. Seymour held the left of which was an essential part of the plan for thus gotten in McClellan's rear, the defeat of of the line, facing westward, his left resting the reduction of the confederate stronghold. the Union army would follow as a matter of upon the river and extending northward partly The strategic importance of the movement, if course. According to his statement Jackson in wooded and partly in cleared ground, until it successfully carried out, may be best appre- was to be at Hanover Court-House by the 23d was joined by Reynolds's troops, mostly in woods, ciated from a statement showing the location or 24th. This information was reported to whose right rested not far from and in the rear of the objective point and the then condition of Washington about the 24th, but, unfortunately, of Shady Grove Church, forming a front of someaffairs as respected the opposing forces. Han- little reliance seems to have been placed upon | thing over a mile in length, through which passover Court-House is upon the Virginia Central | its truthfulness, and no immediate steps were | ed two roads, the only ones practicable for artil-Railroad, not far from its junction with the taken by the governmental authorities to lery, or, in fact, the proper movement of troopsline from Fredericksburg, and twenty miles strengthen their army on the Chickahominy. the lower road, by Ellison's Mills, guarded by north of Richmond. Approached from this direc- Prior to the capture of this spy Porter had Seymour, and the upper road, leading to Cold tion the confederate capital was at that time already taken every precaution in his power Harbor, closed by Reynolds. Both roads ran wholly unprotected. The country was open, to guard against just such a movement by nearly parallel to each other and to the Chickawell adapted to the movement of troops, and the rebels as the one indicated, by posting the hominy, down which they tended-the former in there was not a single fortification worthy of | brigades of Reynolds and Seymour, of McCall's di- | the valley, the latter upon the high ground to the name to bar the way. Along the line of vision of Pennsylvania Reserves, recently arrived, the north. The troops were all put under cover the Chickahominy, to the eastward where the on the east bank of Beaver Dam Creek, a small | and the batteries were masked so far as possible Union forces lay, and from whence it was ex- tributary of the Chickahominy putting in from in order to mislead the enemy into the belief that pected their attack would be delivered, the case | the north, and at right angles to the river. This | there was only an insignificant force to be overcome was different. There the approaches were position was but a short distance east of Mechan- at that point instead of a resolute body of 6,000 strongly defended by earthworks constructed icsville, and constituted a good line of defense men, determined to hold their ground against after the most approved fashion by skillful against an enemy advancing from the west-the whatever odds migh perchance be hurled against engineers, who well knew how best to give them | direction from whence Lee or Jackson must come | them. The two brigades from Morell's division the greatest possible amount of defensive strength. to attack the Union right. A few companies and were deployed upon the extreme right of Rey-Behind these (which were well supplied with a battery were thrown forward overlooking the nolds, near Shady Grove Church, to cover that guns, some of them of heavy calibre) lay by far town as a corps of observation. On the 25th of flank. The enemy, who had effected a crossing at the largest and most efficient force that the con- June the position of the Union forces upon the Meadow Bridge and above, came in contact with federacy was at any time during the war able | Chickahominy was about as follows: The Second, | the Union advance about noon, and the troops to muster under one commander, and estimated Third, Fourth, and Sixth Corps, commanded by and battery stationed at Mechanicsville were at all the way from 80,000 to 100,000 men. In Generals Sumner, Heintzleman, Keyes, and withdrawn behind the temporary breastworks front of them was the Union army, and which, Franklin respectively, were south of the river | thrown up in front of Seymour and Reynolds. The prior to the battle of Fair Oaks, may have num- and at about a right angle to it, the left of the battle began immediately. The rebels, confident bered 90,000 men, exclusive of the troops at line extending across the York River Railroad in of success, marched down the opposite slope and Fortress Monroe and the various detachments | the vicinity and a little south of Fair Oaks Sta- | into the Beaver Dam Meadows, through which at White House, West Point, and other localities | tion, five miles north of Richmond, and curving | the stream ran, and were met by a withering fire in the rear guarding the line of communication | slightly backward in an easterly direction, so | of musketry and artillery from the Pennsylvaand supply. At Bowling Green, on the Rich- that its left flank rested upon and was covered nians that soon caused them to retreat in conmond and Fredericksburg road, fifteen miles by White Oak Swamp. Porter with his Corps siderable disorder. Again and again they atnorth of Hanover, lay the advance of General Mc- (the Fifth) held the left or north bank by a line tempted to force the position, now by the lower Dowell's army of 40,000, the bulk of which was parallel to the stream, its left resting upon the road, next by the upper, then all along the line, at Fredericksburg, within easy supporting dis- high ground in the vicinity of Gaines's and oppo- but without avail. At three o'clock a general tance by rail. As the plan was conceived, it site the bridges affording communication with assault was made along the entire front, but soon was intended that this latter force should unite the south bank, and its right extending up and centred into a determined effort to force a passage with that of Porter at Hanover Court-House, along the river to Mechanicsville, a distance of along the upper road, held by Reynolds, in the and march directly upon Richmond, striking six miles; the bulk of the command, however, direction of Cold Harbor. Failing in this they the city upon its unprotected side, taking its being well up to the main body across the Chick- made a furious onset on Seymour on the left, defenders in flank and rear. To repel such an ahominy, only the river and narrow valley lying but with no better success. They were beaten attack the confederates would have been com- between.

welled to detach at least an equal number of The Fifth Corps at that time consisted of three fresh troops crossing at New Bridge, opposite men (McDowell's and Porter's united force would divisions, each of three brigades, viz.: First divis- Mechanicsville, as well as above the town. The

have aggregated 55,000) from their front, which, ion, (Morell's), brigade of Martindale, made up of the Thirteenth and Twenty-fifth New York, command, to force an entrance from the direc- Twenty-second Massachusetts; Griffin's brigade, composed of the Ninth Massachusetts, Sixtysecond Pennsylvania, Fourteenth New York, and Fourth Michigan; Butterfield's brigade consisting of the Twelfth, Seventeenth, and Fortyfourth New York, Eighty-third Pennsylvania,

The Second division, under General Sykes, consisted of Buchanan's brigade, made up of the manded from Washington, and, contrary to his Third, Fourth, Sixth, Twelfth, and Fourteenth Regulars; Chapman's brigade, composed of the Second, Tenth, Eleventh, and Seventeenth; and Warren's brigade, which comprised only the Fifth and Tenth New York volunteers. The Regular been sent up the Valley, via Gordonsville, to regiments were little more than battalions, some of them scarcely exceeding two or three full companies.

The Third division (Pennsylvania Reserves) under General McCall, consisted of three brigades under Meade, Reynolds, and Seymour respectively, and was about 9,000 strong; and the effective infantry force of the First and Second divisions did not exceed, in the estimation of the writer, 14,000 men, from which must be deducted the strength of two of the largest regiments in the First division (Eighteenth Massachusetts and Seventeenth New York) detached with Stoneman which, leaving before the "Seven Days," did not rejoin the Corps until it had reached Harrison's Landing. Making the proper addition for the artillery of the Corps and the horse batteries of Tidball and Robertson temporarily serving with it, and the cavalry, and substracting say 1,200 men belonging to the regiments above named, and it will be found that the effective force upon the north bank of the Chickahominy just prior to the battle of Mechanicsville was between 25,000 and 26,000 men; probably nearer the former number. That this estimate is substantially correct is shown by the official records in the War Department, from which it appears that in the battle of Gaines's Mill, the Fifth Corps lost something over 6,000 men, (to which must be added about say 500, lost at Mechanicsville the day previous), and that the first returns made after reaching Harrison's Landing show less than 21,000 men present for duty. And these last-mentioned returns, too, include several hundred men who were absent sick or otherwise during the "Seven Days," and who rejoined the command after the Thirty-second Massachusetts which joined Morell's division July 2d, besides recruits for other regiments in the Corps, and the Eighteenth Massachusetts and Seventeenth New York, which

were detached as above stated. I have been thus particular for the reason that I have observed in various publications a disposition to overrate the Union forces which for two days held the rebel army in check during the quently, in connection with the Second, Third. Fourth, and Sixth Corps, fought the battles succeeding Gaines's Mills on their way to Harrison's

But to return to my narrative:

On the night of the 24th General Porter and General John F. Reynolds, the latter second to McCall in command of the Pennsylvania Re-

strength it becom

everywhere, although continually reinforced by

battle continued far into the night, the musketry fire never ceasing until nearly nine o'clock, and the artillery opening out at intervals, until about two on the morning of the 27th. The result was a decided victory for the Pennsylvanians. They had not been driven back a foot, although assailed by three or four times their numbers Besides, their losses had been comparatively insignificant, only some 500 or 600 men, while the casualties of the foe had aggregated nearly if not quite 3,000 killed and wounded. Much of the success depended upon our artillery, consisting of Easton's, Cooper's, and Kern's batteries (A B, and G, First Pennsylvania Reserve Artillery) Seymour's battery (C, Fifth United States), and the horse-batteries of Tidball and Robertson (A and B, Second United States Artillery.) Captain (now Brevet Brigadier-General) J. C. Tidball, of General Sherman's staff, especially distinguished himself by the manner in which he fought his guns, singly, by section, or in battery, as the necessities of the occasion seemed to require. Right here comes in a curious bit of history concerning the "change of base" entered upon the next day. Some time in June General McClellan requested an interview with General F. J Porter, alone, and the latter met his superior at a point half way between their respective camps where the advantages of a change of base to the James River were discussed. The conclusion arrived at was that such a movement could not be for a moment entertained except in a case of dire necessity; that an attempt to transfer the army to the James, in the face of Lee, would result disastrously to the Union arms and endanger the national cause both at home and abroad. Me-Clellan, however, evidently fearing such necessity might arise, and in view of the increased activity of the enemy in his front, determined to send General Averill with a corps of topographical officers to examine and prepare maps of the country between the Chickahominy and James, which determination was shortly afterwards carried into effect. After the close of the battle of Mechanicsville, on the 26th, General McClellan and some members of his staff had a meeting with General Porter just in the rear of the troops engaged that day, and remained with him for some little time. The plans for the 27th were then and there arranged; but at General Porter's suggestion the order for withdrawal behind Gaines's Mill Creek, the place selected for the prospective conflict, was not issued until McClellan had returned to Malvern, and also six or seven full companies of his own headquarters and taken a general view of the situation. General Porter opposed the withdrawal, and thought the army should be brought to the north bank and the decisive battle there fought, or that he should be slightly reinforced so that he might hold his position at Gaines's Mill while McClellan, with the Second, Third, Fourth, and Sixth Corps, made a counter attack upon Richmond from the direction of Fair Oaks, on the south bank of the Chickahominy. But at about three or four o'clock a. m. on the 27th the order to Porter to withdraw to the new position was received by him, and the movement was forthwith begun. The position of the Army of the Potomac was an exceedingly critical one, especially in view of the momentous step about to be taken. Its right wing, which had been completely exposed by the withdrawal of McDowell when most needed, was in danger of being overwhelmed by the forces of Jackson and such sup-

s Lee could send him without weakening enses of Richmond; and, besides, the line it was compelled to hold in order to procommunications with White House Landd West Point, extending virtually from nicsville to White Oak Swamp, a distance

or some twelve miles, was of too great length to be properly held by the forces at the disposal of its commander. It had required the whole of Heintzelman's Corps, part of a division from Sumner and a brigade from Keyes to advance the pickets upon the south bank of the Chickahominy on the 25th, at the very time when Lee was sending his forces down to attack the right at Mechanicsville, and the stubborn fight in front of Fair Oaks on the day named attested the strength of the rebels beyond a doubt. The danger of being cut off from his communications was imminent, and McClellan, doubtless feeling himself not properly supported at Washington (whether with justice or not we do not pretend to say), took what seemed to him the most feasible course for extricating his army from its perilous position. A bolder, more decided commander would have united his forces and delivered battle, or else have resigned his commission. He did not see fit to do either, and hence, after the victory of the 26th, a retreat was entered upon which, if for no other reason, is memorable on account of the valor and discipline displayed by the officers and men engaged, and the success with which the change of base was carried out.

FOR THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

THE MIDNIGHT REVIEW. BY GRIF.

There are two armies; one of brave, A sacrificial death to save A Nation's hope and pride. The other is the living host Of patriots who received The victor's meed-fair Freedom's boast-And saw success achieved.

The one great army lies in camp; Each tent, an earthy mound Or wat'ry grave; nor sentry's tramp Is heard, nor martial sound. Above them floats the Flag of Stars, Which led them to the field, And 'neath whose folds they wore their scars Till death their life-work sealed.

Yet to the slumbering forms that lie, Each in his narrow bed, What recks it if the bright blue sky And stars that shine o'erhead Be overcast? Their warfare's o'er; Nor can the quick'ning sound Of bugle note or cannon's roar Disturb their sleep profound.

But though their bodies thus repose, 'Tis said that once each year A spirit-trump at midnight blows A call that all may hear; That then, while May's sweet flow'rs of spring Lie scattered o'er the ground And living comrades garlands fling Above each grassy mound, The heroes gather from their graves And into columns form, While o'er each grim battalion waves Flags, borne through battle-storm.

From their graves all unknown; from the Cumberland's And from Corinth, Manassas, and lone Silent spots where the pickets were shot at the beck Of a devilish spirit of war; from the wreck Of the Congress, that sank without moan :-From the chill, noisome vapors of bayou and swamp From the low, tangled thicket and fen. With their foreheads all wet with the death-given damp Of fever, they come with their shadowy tramp, Counting thousands two hundred of men. In the morning of life, some were wedded to death. And their bridals were garnished with show'rs Of the dread bolts of war, while the sulphurous breath Of the battle-cloud hung o'er the field like a wreath Culled from Satan's Plutonian bow'rs. In the darkness some yielded their lives, 'mid the gloom Of the midnight foray or attack Many died in the broad light of day, while the boom Of the cannon re-echoed the voice of their doom Mingled in with the rifle's sharp crack. Others died in the hospitals, weary with pain; Hundreds sickened upon the dark sea-Perished-then, wrapped in canvas, were sunk 'neath But of those who thus suffered, none perished in vain; They all died for the Flag of the Free. And now their ranks are all Weird music fills the air, While silently the marching feet File past the marble stair Beneath the Capitol's high dome Whereon their goddess stands To overlook her chosen home, And view their phantom bands The ghostly pageant moves along Beneath the midnight sky. While o'er the silent, marching throng The flags and banners fly Which once were borne through smoke and flame Of battle's fierce assail, And on whose folds the marks of fame

> Move on; each bony hand, Yet grasping weapon which through storms It bore for Freedom's land. The phantom horses paw the ground Uneasy at restraint And clank of rusty sabres sound Upon the air, but faint; While into line the cannon wheel,-Each gunner in his seat,-And 'neath their guidons tipped with steel

Roll rumbling down the street.

Were graved by leaden hail

n tattered uniforms, that tell

Ere they on fields of honor fell

And thus discharge secured

From further toil, the ghostly forms

Of hardships long endured

Look, as the column passes! There Ride chieftains worthy of the name Of heroes, and whose very air Bespeaks them soldiers known to fame. And yonder all the heroes come Who fought upon the rolling sea. With springy step, at tap of drum They march on fearless, bold, and free.

There's Mitchell-he who read the stars:-McPherson, tried and true: There's Kearney, with his many scars, And Craven, with his crew. Who sank beneath the rushing wave 'Mid foes in iron shells, But fought them till he found a grave-How well, the record tells.

There's Wadsworth, who gave up his life, By gray-haired Baker's side And Birney—he who dreamed of strife When fever's fiercest tide Surged through his veins-who cheered his men As when in days gone by He led them on through tangled fen Beneath a southern sky.

And with them, Reno on the right Come Mansfield and the grand, Heroic Sumner, bold in fight Beloved by his command; Then follow Sedgwick, Stevens, all Who won their rank so well. Who fought beneath the battle's pall, And, bravely fighting, fell.

The hand grows weary that would write Upon Fame's lasting scroll The names of all whose courage bright Makes glad the patriot soul; For, marching on in serried rank With solemn step and slow. Come all who by Potomac's bank Or Rappahannock's flow Fell bravely fighting-all who stood On Lookout's lofty height Amid the clouds, or in the wood Where Grant let in the light With war's red axe,-all who in cot Or prison pined away, Or fell in some lone silent spot Or in the fierce affray And shock of battle-all are there Some from the salt sea foam-

The seaweed clinging to their hair-While others are from home Where loving hands their stricken forms Laid quietly at rest To sleep unconscious, e'en though storms Should surge above their breast.

Some chevrons wear; some, straps of gold; And others, only sears To mark the rank of right they hold; But whether stars, or bars, Or gold or silver leaf, or stripe, Or anchor, matters not; They proved themselves of courage ripe And shall not be forgot.

'Tis thus they pass in Grand Review-The army of our Dead. Above them bends earth's sky of blue, And twinkling stars o'er head Look calmly down upon the scene, While from her lofty throne The pageant Liberty's fair Queen Beholds, but not alone; For close beside, on either hand, As they the scene survey, Great Washington and Lincoln stand; And 'mid the bright array Of other noble chiefs whose eyes Look downward by their side Are those who saw their great emprise Successful ere they died, And spirits from the misty past Stand breathless to admire The glorious visions while they last-Ere yet the hour expire.

The city bathed in slumber lies. Time passes on. The bell Tolls one; and quick each phantom flies Back to its narrow cell.

The talk of using dogs as sentinels recalls the fact that it has already been done in the Turkish army, where a trained dog went along the sentry lines and awoke any sleeping sentinel. A dog named Moustache went over the St. Bernard with Napoleon I, signalled the midnight approach of the enemy at Alessandria, took part in the battle of Marengo, at Austerlitz, on the fall of the standard bearer, seized the standard and conveyed it to Marshal Lannes, and fell by a bullet at the siege of Badajoz on March 11, 1811.